
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As you begin work on the FY 2010 appropriations bills, we are writing to respectfully request that you include \$700 million for the Title X national family planning program in the chairman's mark. While the FY 2009 Title X increase of \$7.5 million to \$307.5 million was a step in the right direction, it only begins to address the inadequate funding provided for this program over the past 28 years. For example, had funding for the Title X program kept up with the rate of inflation since 1980, it would have been funded at \$759 million instead of the \$283 million in FY2007. Years of stagnant funding have left the program without the resources needed to keep up with medical inflation, increased demand for services, and new technologies to better allow clients to meet their basic primary health care needs.

Widespread use of contraceptives continues to be a critical component of basic preventive health care for women and has been the driving force in reducing national rates of unintended pregnancies, STDs, and abortion. Contraceptive use has also led to dramatic declines in maternal and infant mortality rates and has vastly improved maternal and infant health. Publicly supported family planning services, such as those provided by Title X, help women plan the number and timing of their pregnancies, thereby helping to prevent approximately 1.3 million unplanned pregnancies each year, nearly half of which would otherwise end in abortion. Unfortunately, many American women do not have access to family planning services. A recent study from the Guttmacher Institute found that low-income women are four times more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy than higher-income women are.

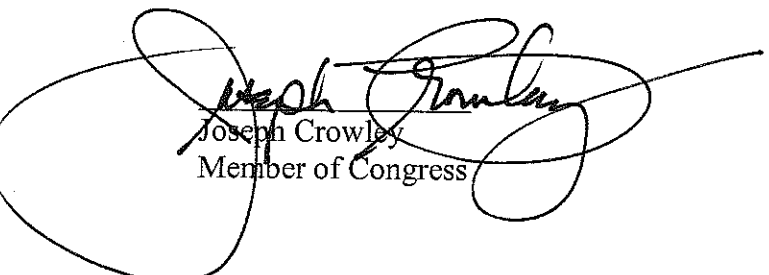
Today, more than 17 million women need publicly supported contraceptive care – a number which continues to grow. Many of these women rely on Title X-funded health centers to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care they could otherwise not afford and likely would not get. Title X is a vital part of our nation's public health infrastructure, serving nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,400 state and county health departments, hospital-based clinics, family planning councils, and Planned Parenthood clinics that receive these funds. In addition to providing contraceptive services and supplies, Title X clinics provide other basic preventive health services.

In 2006, Title X-funded clinics provided 2.5 million Pap tests, 2.4 million breast exams, 5.2 million STD tests, and 652,426 confidential HIV tests.

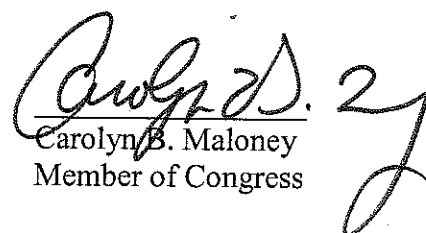
A 2005 government review of the Title X family planning program confirms that the program serves a unique and valuable purpose, is cost-effective, and is effectively managed. For example, for every public dollar invested in family planning, \$4.02 is saved in Medicaid costs for pregnancy and newborn care alone. Despite the fact that Title X is one of the nation's best and most cost-effective public health success stories, without additional funding, Title X clinics will be unable to meet the growing demand for care and provide quality preventive services, such as rapid HIV tests and chlamydia screening. The combination of dramatic price increases for contraceptives in recent years and the approval of a costly HPV vaccine pose significant barriers to providing these quality services.

While we are mindful of the many competing budget priorities, we urge you to invest in programs that promote public health and at the same time save scarce public health dollars, such as Title X. An investment of \$700 million for Title X in the FY2010 LHHS measure will go a long way toward expanding access to cost-effective health care for low-income women and men. Thank you for your consideration.

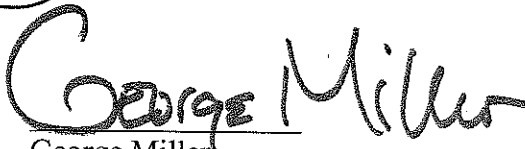
Sincerely,




Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



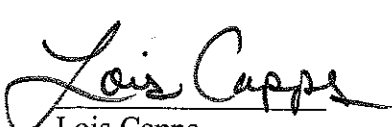
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



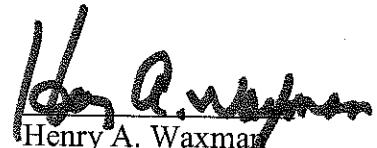
George Miller
Member of Congress



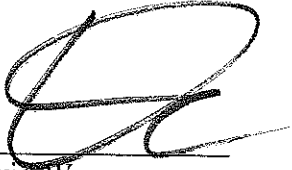
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
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Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



David Wu
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Sander M. Levin
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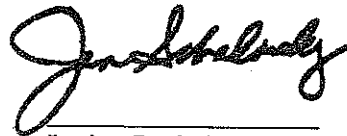
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



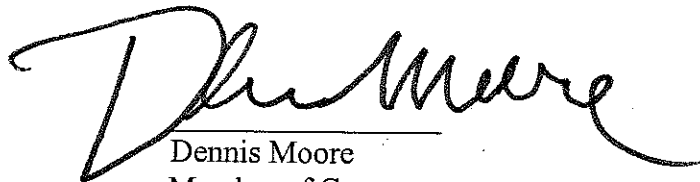
Susan A. Davis
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Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

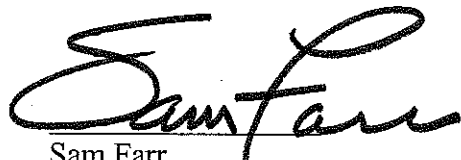



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

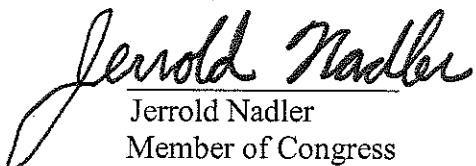



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

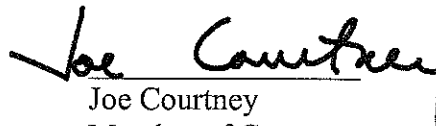

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

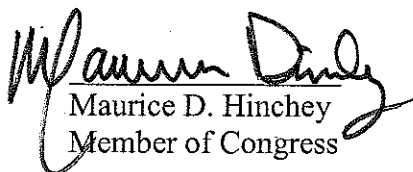

Sam Farr
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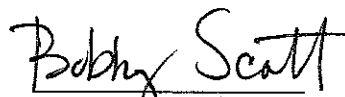

Rick Larsen
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Jerrold Nadler
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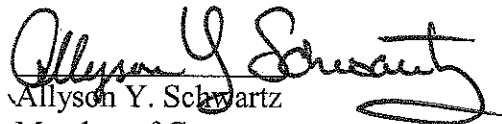

Elijah E. Cummings
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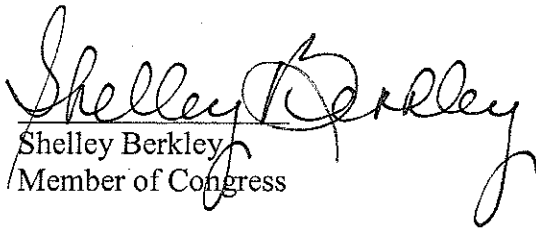

Allyson Y. Schwartz
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William D. Delahunt
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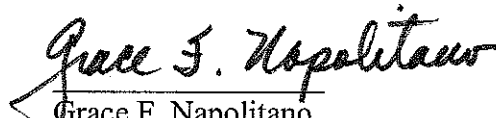
Shelley Berkley
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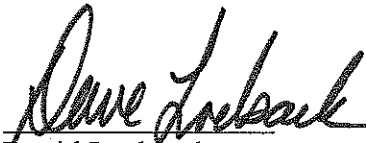
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



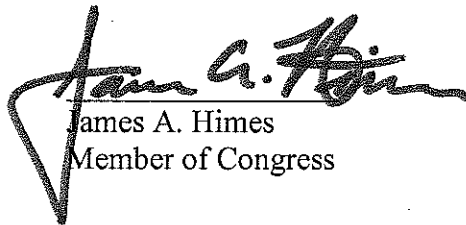
Linda T. Sanchez
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Grace F. Napolitano
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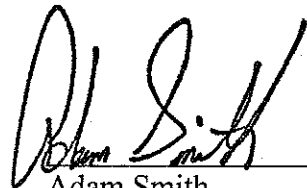
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



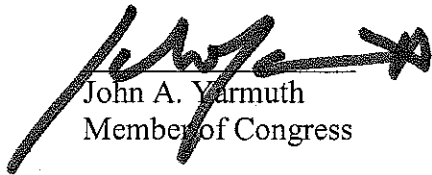
James A. Himes
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Paul W. Hodes
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Adam Smith
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John A. Yarmuth
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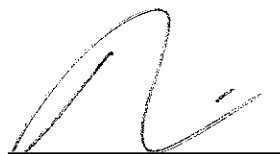
Doris O. Matsui
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Gene Green
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Anthony D. Weiner
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Peter Welch
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Kathy Castor
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Bruce Braley
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Emanuel Cleaver
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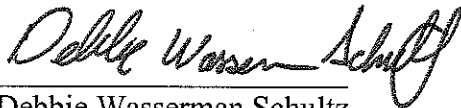
Michael McMahon
Member of Congress




Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



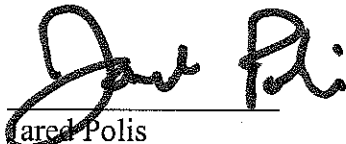
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



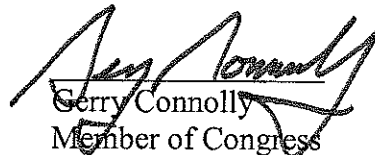
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



John Hall
Member of Congress



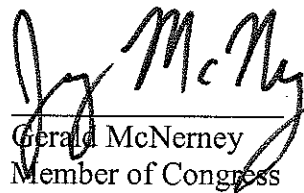
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



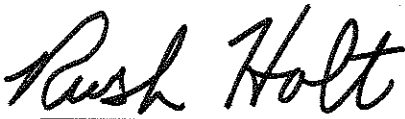
Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress



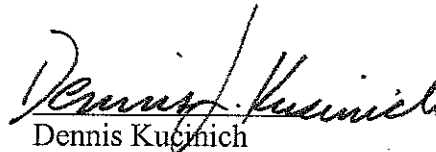
Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Gerald McNerney
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
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